Decline in revenues

837. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sharp decline in the revenues of Indian Railways for the current year, compared with the last financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to hike the rates of passenger fare and that of freight; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to improve the revenue situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Upto the end of September, 1993, the traffic earnings of the Indian Railways amounted to Rs. 8,734 crores, as against Rs. 7,814 crores in the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Revision of fare and freight rates depends upon escalation in the input cost and the budgetary support received by the Railways.

(d) In order to block leakage of revenue and improve earnings, action has already been taken to make intensive checks of important goods sheeds/stations so that charges are levied correctly Extensive ticket checking drives are also conducted so as to curb ticketless travel and improved earnings thereon.

Construction of National Coastal Highway from Dwarka to Kanyakumari

@838. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government and the Governments of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa have agreed that a National Coastal Highway to facilitate tourism should be constructed from Dwarka to Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, what are details thereof; and

(c) what are the environmental repercussions of such highway in the West coast region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fake driving licences by Redline bus drivers

839. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Pioneer dated 25th October, 1993 regarding possession of fake driving licences by almost 90 per cent drivers of Redline buses in Delhi:

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the factual position;

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof: and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi verified the news item through a survey conducted on 28th October, 1993. Out of 613 buses surveyed only 33 Drivers were found to have licences issued by the States other than the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. 16 Drivers did not possess driving licence at the time of survey. They have been prosecuted.

@Previously Unstarred Question 44, transferred from 2nd December, 1993.